

Tennessee's radio outlets have served as a shining example, providing a consistent source of quality information, while never forgetting the core reason for their existence, which is to serve our growing communities. In light of that, I would like to take a moment to recognize this year's Radio Hall of Fame inductees—Harry Chapman; Warren Medley; Dave Overton; Aaron Robinson, Sr.; Charlie Scott; and Cal Young, Jr.—all of whom, collectively, made decades of significant broadcast contributions prior to their death.

In addition, I would like to recognize Maxine Humphreys, Cathy Martindale, and Bart Walker.

Also, I would like to highlight those from my district in Chattanooga—Chattanooga's very own Billy Joe Poindexter of WUSY, US 101; Keith Landecker of Power 94; Earl Freudenberg of WDTN AM 980; and station of the year, WUSY, US 101—all of whom continue to make significant contributions to the radio industry.

On a personal note, when I was a lawyer in my district, I had a radio show. During that time, I had the privilege of working with Earl Freudenberg on the *Dynamo of Dixie* on AM 1310. I learned much from Earl during that time, and I am proud to call him a friend. Needless to say, I enjoyed my radio years in the Chattanooga community immensely.

Again, I would like to congratulate this year's Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame inductees.

POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, this is Police Week, a week which offers all of us an opportunity to honor those who selflessly keep our community safe.

"To protect and serve," that is more than just a slogan on the side of police cars across the country. It is a promise, a promise that brave men and women in uniform keep every day as they uphold law and order in our cities and towns.

But to be able to protect and serve us, our law enforcement needs the tools and resources that are vital to successfully doing their job. And, unfortunately, some of that essential lifesaving equipment that they need to protect us and to protect themselves has been stripped away.

Last June, President Obama arbitrarily and unilaterally decided to limit the 1033 surplus equipment program, a Federal program that provides lifesaving Defense Department equipment to State and local law enforcement agencies.

Because of this ill-conceived action, I am hearing from the sheriffs, police chiefs, and law enforcement officials throughout the 18 counties that I am fortunate to represent. I am hearing about how the safety of the brave men

and women in blue and their departments are being compromised by the President's action.

It is clear that the President's decision to unilaterally cut access to lifesaving equipment was a knee-jerk reaction that put politics in front of public safety, and that is something that we simply can't let happen.

So in response, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Protecting Lives Using Surplus Equipment Act to stop this action dead in its tracks and to ensure that any changes to this program are the result of a data-driven debate here in Congress, not through some arbitrary, unilateral action by the President.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in standing up against this administration's attack on law enforcement safety by supporting my bill and making sure that our police have the equipment they need for their own safety and for the safety of the American people. They deserve nothing less.

NEW YORK STATE'S REJECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, during the winter months, natural gas demand in New York City outstrips the ability of existing pipelines to deliver natural gas from the nearby Marcellus gas field in Pennsylvania. This capacity limitation can cause gas prices to spike during cold weather. For example, on January 22, 2014, when the price in the Marcellus was \$3.50 per thousand cubic feet, the New York City price was \$123. I want to repeat that; \$3.50 in the Marcellus, and in New York City the price was \$123.

Constraints on natural gas make electricity more expensive. High energy prices are especially hard on the poor. Businesses suffer and jobs are lost when they lack abundant supply of affordable, clean energy. However, there is a shovel-ready solution: build the Constitution pipeline to bring more of Pennsylvania's Marcellus gas to New York.

You would think that New York would welcome a new supply of clean, economical natural gas to lower consumer costs. However, on April 22, New York's State Department of Environmental Conservation denied the construction of the Constitution pipeline needed to deliver more Pennsylvania gas.

For several years, the Constitution Pipeline Company, a group led by Williams Partners, located in my district, has been developing an \$875 million privately funded project to build a pipeline from Pennsylvania to Albany to deliver gas to the Iroquois pipeline and to consumers in New York State and in New England.

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The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Constitution pipeline in 2014. I want to repeat that. FERC approves of the pipeline. According to the company, FERC's final environmental review of the proposed pipeline concluded that environmental impacts would be reduced to "less than significant levels." A year and a half later, the State of New York decided to deny certification necessary to issue construction permits.

The Williams Group worked with the State for 3 years, including two 1-year extensions requested by the State, and yet the State asserted that information provided by the company concerning the 250 or so stream crossings was incomplete.

The company refuted the State of New York's assertions, saying: "Completely contrary to the New York DEC's assertion, we provided detailed drawings and profiles for every stream crossing in New York, including showing depth of pipe. In fact, all stream crossings were fully vetted with the DEC throughout the review process. We are appalled . . ."

Amazingly, Federal regulations provide no recourse to challenge a State's rejection of a section 401 certification, so Constitution Pipeline may need to initiate legal action to contest the decision. The decision has every appearance of political motivation. The Wall Street Journal called it "Cuomo's Energy Jobs Veto."

One has to wonder if the Governor of New York really wants to help the poor and if he can recognize a shovel-ready job when he sees one. This pipeline project would create 2,400 construction jobs and infuse \$130 million of labor income into the region, in addition to providing a reliable supply of clean energy. The real victims in this matter, Mr. Speaker, are the people of New York.

Hopefully, political agendas that threaten to deny New Yorkers the benefits of the Constitution pipeline will be confounded. In the meantime, the message from New York's executive branch is that would-be energy suppliers to New York State need not apply. It appears to be time for consumers and their representatives to make their views known in Albany and for Congress—that is us—to revisit the pipeline permitting process.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.